

MPY-5026

2 April 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Paraguay Bureau -- March 1985

I. GENERAL

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A. To mark the visit to Asuncion by FBIS Deputy Director [redacted] and Associate Deputy Director for S&T James Hirsch, the bureau chief hosted an early evening bureau coffee on the 22d. [redacted] briefed all bureau employees on the FBIS modernization program. The bureau chief used the occasion also to announce the promotion of eight local employees, which made for a joyous meeting.

B. March produced the second highest total wordage ever filed by Paraguay Bureau, some 456,000 words, second only to the file produced at the height of the Falklands War in May 1982 (492,000). Similarly, the publishable wordage for March (375,000) was second only to the May 1982 figure (426,000). The March totals reflect the on-going trend of the past 12-18 months as the bureau's file has shown a constant overall increase of up to 50-80 percent over comparable months as recently as 1983. The March wordage was caused by the events noted below, as well as by the return of AFP coverage to the bureau following a 2-month hiatus and by a productive file from the Moscow Spanish to Chile casts..

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In Brazil, late on the eve of his inauguration, President-elect Tancredo Neves was rushed to the hospital for an emergency intestinal operation. The bureau caught the report when the monitor covering Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes tuned in the scheduled cast early. As a result, the bureau remained open 4 hours late that night to report on developments. The following day, on the 15th, the bureau covered the subdued inauguration ceremonies in Brasilia live, ceremonies marked by the swearing of Vice President Jose Sarney, who now is acting president. Surprisingly, a local Asuncion television station carried the 6-hour proceedings from Brasilia live, for which the bureau filed a VSL. Since the inauguration, Neves has been operated on two more times. To cover reports on the operations and Neves' state of health, the bureau stayed open late several nights and opened on the 17th, a Sunday morning, to cover the first meeting of the new

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Brazilian administration at which Sarney read a policy speech previously prepared by Neves.

2. On the 1st, Julio Sanguinetti was sworn in as president of Uruguay to head the first democratic government since the military took power in 1973. Two of Sanguinetti's first decisions were to propose a general amnesty for political prisoners, including members of the Tupamaro movement. Since assuming power the new administration has been confronted by a series of labor strikes and is reportedly involved in a "silent struggle" with the military to restrict its powers.

3. A 16-day Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) strike plunged Bolivia further into its economic and social quagmire. Before and during the strike, peasants and miners supporting the COB staged several demonstrations in La Paz punctuated by the miners exploding dynamite caps. To calm the situation, President Siles offered to co-govern with the COB, but COB leader Juan Lechin immediately turned down the offer. On the 19th, the government for the first time ordered the Army to take control of the streets and to dismantle barricades and roadblocks erected by the demonstrators. The strike ended on the 23d with the government granting wage increases, far less than the COB had demanded, and making other promises on supplies of staples to the population. At month's end, the government issued a series of statements responding to U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins' criticisms of Bolivia's drug-fighting efforts. The government also rejected U.S. offers of logistics aid to help Bolivia prepare for the general elections scheduled for mid-July, calling the aid offer interference in Bolivia's domestic affairs.

4. In Argentina, at the beginning of the month the Alfonsin administration carried out a purge of top-ranking military officers which ended with the naming of an Air Force general as Armed Forces chief of staff, a marked break with Argentine military tradition. On the 14th, Alfonsin set off on a tour that took him to Brazil for the inauguration, to the United States for a state visit, and to Mexico for a state visit during which he strongly criticized the handling of the Latin American debt problem.

5. Coverage of Buenos Aires Domestic Service has been hampered since the 5th, when the service dropped virtually all use of shortwave to broadcast its programming, using instead a microwave net. The bureau's reception of the service, previously good, is now poor-fair. The bureau expects that a new long-wire antenna that it is currently constructing for testing purposes will improve reception in the mediumwave band. However, as luck will have it, a brush fire on the 29th at the ANTELCO field where the new antenna was under construction destroyed the new antenna poles and wires. Completion of the project, originally set for the first week of April, now is scheduled for late April.

6. Chilean events were marked by a devastating earthquake on the 3d in the central area of the country, which includes Santiago. The quake caused 224 deaths and at last estimate \$ 1.5 billion in damage. The bureau augmented coverage of the disaster by filing VSL's from Paraguayan and Argentine TV reportage on the damage. On the 4th, the government

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declared a strict curfew in Santiago to prevent looting and on the 9th announced a "state of danger of disturbance of internal peace" following a series of terrorist incidents. The bureau's Santiago contractor also suffered some damage to his home and equipment. The bureau has made arrangements, via USIS/Santiago, for additional equipment to be shipped and loaned to the contractor.

B. Lateral Services

The Embassy's new GSO has been added as a local consumer for items on Paraguay.

C. Cruising

The bureau's cruising effort concentrated on seasonal Moscow International changes and checking out Argentina's Radio Nacional domestic and international beaming and reception.

D. Technical

1. The bureau's new 300-meter long-wire antenna was nearing completion at the ANTELCO antenna field when a brush fire on the 29th destroyed the new poles and wires. Completion of the project is now scheduled for late April.

2. The bureau purchased locally four Sharp Model 5H12 5-inch color television sets with NTSC and PAL-N capability for use at the monitor-supervisor position to enhance the bureau's flexibility and coverage of monitored events. With the receipt of these TV's, only the final construction of a unit to hold them remains before completing the reconstruction of the supervisors' position.

3. With Headquarters approval, the bureau is supplying from stock and/or purchasing and forwarding to its Santiago contractor on a loan-basis via USIS two audio cassette recorders, one reel-to-reel recorder, one VCR, and one small combination TV/radio/cassette recorder. The damage done to the contractor's equipment during the recent earthquake accelerated the plan to provide appropriate equipment to the contractor, who will buy also two timers in Santiago.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Out of a total of 57 applications for the monitorial position that was recently advertised in the local press, initial testing has resulted in 7 promising candidates. At this writing, the bureau awaits the final headquarters go-ahead before advertising the newly approved associate editor position.

2. On the 22d, at the above-mentioned bureau coffee with Messrs [redacted] and Hirsch, the following promotions were announced: Monitor [redacted] from FEN- 9 to 10; monitors [redacted]

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STAT from FBN- 8 to 9; monitor-trainee [redacted] from FBN-6 to 7;
 STAT Communications Section chief [redacted] from FBN-6 to 7; and teletypists
 STAT [redacted] from FBN-5 to 6.

3. A Paraguayan-government mandated increase of 10 percent of the minimum wage, i.e., 3,955 guaranies/month, for all workers in the country was approved for the mission local employees effective 3 February. As this followed the recently approved cost-of-living increase noted in last month's report, new wage scales had to be recomputed so that this COL increase was premised on the correct base.

IV. VISITS

STAT 1. P&TB officers [redacted] to the bureau TDY 18-20
 STAT March for orientation.

STAT 2. DD/FBIS [redacted] and Associate Deputy Director for S&T
 James Hirsch to the bureau TDY 22-23 March for a management visit.

STAT 3. On the 23d, a Saturday, DCM Dan Clare unannounced brought U.S.
 Ambassador to Uruguay Thomas Aranda to the bureau for a visit and detailed
 briefing, given by Deputy Chief [redacted] Ambassador Aranda, who was
 in Asuncion at the invitation of Ambassador Davis, expressed appreciation
 for the file the bureau sends to Montevideo, particularly for the materials
 leading up to the recent elections in Uruguay which brought an end to 11
 years of military rule.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

STAT 1. [redacted] wife of staff senior editor [redacted]
 STAT [redacted]

STAT 2. On the 23d, a ladies tea was held in a downtown hotel for communi-
 STAT cations section chief [redacted] in honor of her upcoming marriage
 STAT scheduled for 4 May. A picture of the gathering made the society pages of
 the local press.

[redacted]
 Chief, FBIS Paraguay Bureau

CC: Panama Bureau

Att'd: Monthly Production Report

PMS/clr
 04/02/85

PARAGUAY LEADU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1985

<u>TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:</u>	455,940
TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING THE MONTH:	374,830
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING THE MONTH:	81,110
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING THE MONTH:	1,049

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCY</u>	<u>PUBLIC- ATIONS</u>
I. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u>	8,585 (min)	39,360 (min)	14,200 (issues)
II. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u>			

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish	7,070		
Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish	1,060		
Buenos Aires Radio Belgrano in Spanish	330		
Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish		25,740	
Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish		19,010	
Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish		5,670	
Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English			17,080
Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish			0
Buenos Aires GENTE in Spanish			0
Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish			3,920
Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish			4,440
Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish			130

BOLIVIA

La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish	2,790		
La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish	38,730		
La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish			1,220
La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish			310

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCY</u>	<u>PUBLIC- ATIONS</u>
<u>BRAZIL</u>			
Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese	16,090		
Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese	3,780		
Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese	10,150		
Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese	7,080		
Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese			2,860
Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English			0
Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese			0
Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese			6,610
Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese			2,210
Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese			5,810
Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese			0
<u>CHILE</u>			
Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish	12,220		
Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish	4,500		
Santiago COSAS in Spanish			1,190
Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish			4,100
Santiago HOY in Spanish			1,340
Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish			840
Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish			0
<u>CHINA</u>			
Beijing in Spanish to Latin America	0		
<u>FRANCE</u>			
PARIS AFP in Spanish		43,250	

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCY</u>	<u>PUBLIC- ATIONS</u>
<u>PARAGUAY</u>			
Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish	3,870		
Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish	70		
Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistena Nacional Television in Spanish	370		
Asuncion Red Privada de Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish	150		
Asuncion EL DIARIO NOTICIAS in Spanish			2,810
Asuncion EL PUEBLO in Spanish			0
Asuncion HOY in Spanish			1,290
Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish			330
Asuncion SENDERO in Spanish			3,900
Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish			4,100
<u>PERU</u>			
Lima Domestic Service in Spanish	650		
Lima Television Service in Spanish	2,750		
Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish	1,690		
Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish	4,660		
Lima Television Lima in Spanish	3,240		
Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish	3,180		
Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish	100		
<u>SPAIN</u>			
MADRID EFE in Spanish		42,660	
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u>			
Moscow in Portuguese to Brazil	650		

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	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCY</u>	<u>PUBLIC- ATIONS</u>
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u> - continued			
Moscow in			
Spanish to Latin America	1,240		
Moscow in			
Spanish to Chile	15,970		
Moscow in			
Spanish to Cuba	0		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in			
Spanish to Latin America	0		
Moscow Radio Magallanes in			
Spanish to Chile	0		
<u>URUGUAY</u>			
Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in			
Spanish	9,330		
Montevideo Radio Carve in			
Spanish	2,260		
Montevideo Radio Oriental in			
Spanish	1,510		
Montevideo EL DIA in			
Spanish			5,510
Montevideo OPINAR in			
Spanish			0
Montevideo Radio Montecarlo in			
Spanish	4,920		
Montevideo LA HORA in			
Spanish			6,380